ROUND TABLE MEETING SUMMARY

A SUSTAINABLE VISION FOR WASHINGTON'S SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

MEETING 2 April 3, 2001

WENATCHEE-CENTRAL REGION

What is the Round Table Meeting Series?

The "Sustainable Vision for Washington State's Solid Waste System" round table meeting series (March-June 2001) brings community, business, and government together to identify coordinated approaches to solid waste issues. Diverse perspectives have been raised during these meetings. The outcomes of the meeting series are recommendations from each of the four regions for use in determining the priority issues and action alternatives that will be included in the state solid waste plan revision. Issues, goals, and strategies, in common within regions and across the state, will be noted in these recommendations, along with those that are unique to a region. All interested residents throughout the state are encouraged to join these regional dialogues during the remaining May and June meetings regardless of whether or not you participated in earlier meetings.

SUMMARY OF MEETING 2

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of Meeting 2 was for participants to identify milestones (interim goals with deadlines) for the issues identified in Meeting 1. The milestones will serve as landmarks that help measure progress toward a more effective and a more sustainable solid waste system, both in the long-term and the short-term.

Cullen Stephenson, Manager of Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program spoke briefly about the project. He emphasized that management at Ecology is firmly behind and strongly supportive of this effort. He also ensured participants that Ecology would consider the outcomes of the meeting series very seriously, and while it may not be possible for every single idea suggested by participants to be included in the plan, most of the ideas will be included.

PROCESS TO DATE

Cheryl Strange, project manager for the state plan explained that Ecology began working on a revision to the State Solid Waste Plan with the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and a number of stakeholders in early 2000. Work groups developed issue papers, which serve as the foundation for the Round Table discussions. The full text of the issue papers can be found in the document entitled "Issues Identification: Issues for Consideration and Discussion" # 01-07-001 on the project website at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swplan.

The Round Table Meeting Series, March-June 2001, is the public review and input process for this stage of the state solid waste plan revision. This is the time to identify what is needed to create a state solid waste plan that will have support from the diverse communities who will be asked to participate in implementation activities. The plan recommendations are not written at this time; there is no drafted language to review and comment on. The regional recommendations drafted at the regional round tables will provide a foundation

for the next phase of developing action alternatives for consideration, which will follow the round tables in summer of 2001. Public review and input on the plan options and recommendations will be held in late fall of 2001 or winter of 2001-2, the draft plan will be developed in spring of 2002, and the final plan is scheduled for summer 2002.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISES

A sustainable solid waste system will not be created overnight. Participants were asked to identify the steps they would like to see taken in their region that would help the region and/or the state to move forward toward a more sustainable system. These steps, or "milestones," are interim goals with deadlines. Participants worked in small groups, or breakouts, in two separate exercises. In the first one, participants identified milestones on a timeline that are needed to reach for the long-term vision. In the second exercise while using the same timeline, participants came up with ideas of what needs to happen to support the existing solid waste system while moving toward a more sustainable system. Finally, all participants reviewed the work of the other breakout groups to see the diversity of perspectives within the region.

The small groups provided the opportunity to explore the issues from a variety of perspectives. Participants were asked to choose one of the following breakout groups to work in: Government; Solid Waste Industry; Business; Environment; and Community and Civic Groups. These breakout groups were not considered to representative voices for each of these groupings; rather, the groupings were made for the purposes of providing participants the opportunity to express various perspectives on solid waste issues.

The breakout group timelines from each of the small groups have been merged. The milestones were organized into topic groupings by the neutral meeting facilitators, not the participants. The facilitators will request feedback on these groupings in Meeting 3. The milestones identified in the meeting are contained in the table below.

NEXT STEPS

In May, round table meeting participants will focus on "How to Get to Where We Want to Go" in the region. Attendees will review the LONG RANGE VISION and CURRENT SYSTEM NEEDS milestones that were created in the April meeting. Attendees will work in small groups to identify proposed actions to reach the interim goals. Then, a full group discussion will be facilitated on how the diverse perspectives will included in the regional recommendation to the state solid waste plan revision.

In addition, the draft vision will be reviewed and participant comments thus far will be compiled on how a sustainable approach to solid waste looks in the region. You are encouraged to attend and to share your perspectives on a sustainable future for solid waste in your region.

CENTRAL REGION MILESTONES

The following table contains all Milestones from Meeting 2. Milestones are grouped by topic. If the topic is related to an Issue Paper, the source is noted. There is a brief summary statement at the beginning of each topic group, following by the Milestones themselves. Each Milestone indicates the initial of the sector break-out group in which it was created it (see key below) and the year it was placed on the timeline. The initials for the sector breakout groups stand for the following:

(B) = Business
(C) = Community & Civic Groups
(E) = Environment
(G) = Government
(SW) = Solid Waste Industry

RECYCLING MARKETS (Issue Paper 11)

Within 10 years, stable markets will be developed for recyclables, and recycling services will be readily available. Within 30 years, markets will exist for all waste.

- Stable markets for recyclables and somewhere to take them (G) 2001
- There are not enough markets for materials (E) 2011
- If you produce it you have to provide a market to purchase what remains at the end of the product life (G) 2021
- DNA in everything generated to be able to track back to source (G) 2021
- Market exists for all waste (SW) 2026
- Free market economics rule in solid waste industry, government intervention is zero. (G) 2031

RECYCLING (Issue Paper 11)

Within 10 years recycling services will be readily available and nearly all materials currently considered waste will be resources or products. Within 30 years there will be little disposal - less than 1 lb per person of waste per day - and ideally all materials currently considered waste will be resources or products. In addition, product stewardship will be accepted as a normal manufacturing practice. Within 60 years garbage will be converted to energy.

- Recycle centers are close to communities and are always price attractive (G) 2001
- Transfer stations have better recovery of materials (SW) 2006
- Curbside recycling available for 75 percent of residents (G) 2006
- Maintain/sustain current recycle and hazardous waste programs (G) 2006
- 80% of materials considered waste in 2001 are resources or products (G) 2011
- 100% of materials considered waste in 2001 are resources/ products (G) 2021
- Product stewardship is accepted as a normal manufacturing practice (G) 2021
- Super Material Recovery Facility, market exists for all waste (SW) 2021
- Perfect recycling, little disposal, less than 1lb per person of waste per day (SW) 2031
- Business locally - i.e. domestic - in state will be compliant and in an exemplary lead role with global recycling standard (consider the effectiveness even recently of the Kyoto Treaty). (B) 2041
- Garbage to energy (G) 2051

RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS (Issue Paper 11)

Within 10 years nearly all products will be recyclable and all packaging will be recyclable or reusable. Within 30 years all products will be recyclable. Within 60 years all products will be reusable or biodegradable.

- Packaging 100% recyclable/reusable (E) 2011
- All manufactured commodities (non-export) 90% recyclable (B) 2011
- All manufactured commodities (export) 100 % recyclable (B) 2011
- Products must be totally recyclable - e.g. nuclear (B) 2021
- All products are reusable/biodegradable (G) 2061

RECYCLING SERVICES (Issue Paper 11)

Within 10 years educational programs will utilize partnerships within the community to learn about, engage in, and support services that reflect the importance of recycling and accomplish it. Within 20 years there will be 50% rural curbside recycling collection. Within 60 years there will be 100% rural curbside recycling collection.

- Develop education program as partnerships where everyone wins, lessons are learned, buy-in is developed and a successful sustainable program operates efficiently (SW) 2001
- People know and understand the importance of recycling and do it! (C) 2011
- Achieve a non-separated collection system (SW) 2016
- Rural recycling collection increases to 50% with curb site recycle (C) 2021
- Rural curbside recycling 100% (C) 2041

CHANGING BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES

Within 10 years citizens will be educated on the impacts of solid waste. As a result, 75 % of consumers will make purchasing decisions based on sustainability.

- Citizens educated on impacts of solid waste - AND they care (E) 2003
- Require recycling reporting (G) 2003
- Consumers realize that waste is either purchased, grown, or you allow someone to deliver it to you (SW) 2006
- People recognize they use too much - "affluenza"(E) 2006
- 75 % of WA consumers make purchasing decisions based on sustainability (G) 2011
- Ranchers/farmers are land stewards but are not fully educated (E) 2011
- Earth is still alive - we can celebrate 50th Earth Day (E) 2021

WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION (Issue Paper 6)

Within 10 years communities will take responsibility for the waste they generate. Consequently, there will be a 20% -25% per capita decrease in waste generation.

- Community takes responsibility for the waste they generate (SW) 2003
- Waste generation goes down by 25% (G) 2006
- Waste generation does not go down or up (G) 2006
- Waste generation per capita decreases by 20% (G) 2011

LANDFILLS (Issue Paper 9)

Within 10 years closed landfills will be identified and cleaned up where required. Within 30 years landfills will become recovery centers and abandoned/closed landfills will be mined to make use of disposed products.

- 100% of closed landfills have been identified and assessed (G) 2003
- 90% of closed/abandoned landfills have been cleaned up where required (G) 2006
- Community clean up of abandoned waste sites where possible (G) 2011
- 100 % of closed abandoned landfills have been cleaned up (G) 2011
- Landfills become recovery centers (SW) 2016
- Mine abandoned/closed landfills and make use of products that were disposed of (G) 2031
- 90 % of closed/abandoned landfills identified and assessed (G) 2031

WASTE DIVERSION (Issue Paper 5)

Within 10 years waste will go down by 25% and within 15 years 50% of waste will be diverted.

- Waste disposal goes down by 25% (G) 2006
- 50% waste diversion rate (G) 2016

DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Within 10 years there will be a new approach to disposal facilities. Landfill operations will be converted to waste-to-energy operations and new ways to use waste will be explored - e.g. grind/bio reactors and gas compost.

- Look at ways to use waste - even landfills - grind/bio reactor - use gas compost (SW) 2006
- Landfill operations are converted to waste-to-energy operation (B) 2011

ACTUAL / COMPLETE COSTS OF SOLID WASTE (Issue Paper 10)

Within 10 years waste bills will include the environmental impacts of solid waste services, and the cost of waste will be identified by the community. In addition, the funding sources for solid waste programs and services will no longer be based on high volume low cost rationale. Within 20 years the market will reflect the "reality" of all costs.

- Waste bills include money and environmental impacts on decisions regarding solid waste services (E) 2003
- The cost of waste is identified by community (G) 2006
- Alter funding of facility operations to include stable sources to go with tipping fees (not solely dependent on tipping fees) (G) 2006
- Get past high volume for low cost. True cost used to make changes (SW) 2006
- Penalties for not recycling - unit based pricing (G) 2006
- Market reality - a platform exists for all costs (SW) 2016

ROLES AND AUTHORITIES (Issue Paper 2)

Within 10 years all levels of government will work together toward solid waste goals. In particular, state and local regulations will be coordinated. Environmental and health regulations will encourage innovation and solid waste rules and responsibilities will be clear. And there will be less planning requirements and more implementation.

- Environmental and health regulations work toward creative solutions rather than discouraging innovation (SW) 2001
- Easier landfill expansion - processes state and local (SW) 2001
- Government foresees eventual and imminent environmental degradations, alerts Ecology on all federal/state controls, and has sufficient lead time to avoid civil disobedience (B) 2003
- Know amounts of waste generated locally (G) 2003
- Local plans recognized by the state (G) 2003
- Level playing field. If government wants to collect and have, let them buy truck tonnage, heavy highway use tax, business and occupation taxes, etc. (SW) 2003
- Provide exemptions and/or funds for recycling coordinators, etc. are available to the people that actually get the job done - not talk about it (SW) 2003
- Federal, state, county, city and private are all "on the same side" (SW) 2006
- Coordinate state and local regulations (G) 2006
- Regulations (SW and AQ) prioritized and coordinated (G) 2006
- Rules require an enforcement component - identify who it is and make it happen (political sensitivities, etc.) (SW) 2006
- Governments work together toward solid waste goals (E) 2011
- Regulations, not just solid waste are clear and public can economically comply (G) 2011
- Clear rules and responsibility with regard to who has enforcement authority (G) 2011
- No changes in regulations (G) 2011
- Less planning requirements. More program (hazardous waste and recycle) implementation (G) 2011

FUNDING FOR GOVERNMENT SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

Within 10 years there will be stable and long term funding sources to implement state and local solid waste plans. And solid waste funding will not be dependent upon waste generation.

- Stable and long term funding source to implement state and local plans (G) 2003
- Solid waste program funding not dependent up on waste generation - Identify Options (G) 2003
- Stable funding source for program maintenance (G) 2006
- Solid waste program funding not dependent up on waste generation - chosen Options from 2 years are implemented (G) 2006
- Convenient and economically feasible options exist (G) 2021
- End CPG funding by Ecology (G) 2021
- Funding provided to assist with 0% toxic disposal (G) 2031
- Replace infrastructure every 30 years (G) 2031

STATE AND LOCAL SOLID WASTE PLANNING

Within 10 years state and local solid waste plans will be coordinated and local plans will be funded. Government understands that rural Eastern Washington operates under different constraints than Western Washington.

- Stable/reliable funding source to maintain programs (G) 2001
- Fund local plans today (G) 2001
- State plan should be reflective of local plans primarily (G) 2001
- Set realistic state goals with step-by-step guidelines on how to achieve those goals (G) 2001
- Production of state plan is timely with implementation of local plans (G) 2001
- Government understands that rural Eastern Washington operates under different constraints than Western Washington (SW) 2001
- Population impacts are considered in planning (E) 2003
- Solid waste planning fully funded (G) 2003
- Provide stable and long term funding for state and local plans (G) 2006
- State voter pamphlet says < 2 percent of budget goes to natural resource agencies (E) 2006

ADDRESS SPECIAL WASTE STREAMS (Issue Paper 1)

Within 10 years, construction debris, electronic waste, and tires will be diverted from landfills; almost green waste will be composted; and wrecked cars will be reused.

- Reduce wrecked vehicles to reusable components within 12 months except when auto bodies are certified restorable (B) 2001
- 99.9% of green waste composted (G) 2003
- Construction debris diverted from landfills (G) 2003
- Compost yard waste collected from residents (G) 2003
- Remove green waste from the waste stream going to landfill - compost (G) 2003
- Remove construction debris from the waste stream that goes to sanitary landfill (G) 2003
- System for electronic waste recycling (G) 2003
- Green waste out of landfills (G) 2006
- Tires out of landfills (G) 2006
- Compost agriculture waste rather than burning (G) 2006
- solate existing "wrecking yard" car bodies (and contents) from air polluting and ground seepage storage conditions (B) 2006
- Manufacturers of high carbon products develop subsidiary, partner biomass business (B) 2006
- Research & development in nuclear industry finds a way to fast-decay nuclear-waste, e.g. heat energy use (B) 2011

HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLING

Within 10 years hazardous waste disposal will be economical and convenient for all citizens. In addition, hazardous waste handling will increase.

- Hazardous waste handling increases (SW) 2006
- Hazardous waste disposal economical and convenient for all citizens (G) 2011

LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING (Issue Paper 3)

Within 10 years both public and natural areas will not be littered. This will occur through litter abatement programs and litter education.

- Focus on litter education (SW) 2001
- Keep current litter abatement program (G) 2001
- Enforcement and penalties for not using landfills or improper disposal (G) 2001
- Parks & natural areas are not littered or dumped (E) 2006
- Increase litter enforcement and funding (G) 2011
- No disposable products in public areas (C) 2016

INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRY

Within 10 years incentives such as carbon-crediting recycling stocks will be in place.

- Businesses producing carbon-rich commodities incorporate carbon-crediting into the price of goods (B) 2006
- All buyers get x shares of recycling stock (e.g. 4% of products sale price for turn over of materials into recycle market, i.e. car into car) (B) 2006

TOXINS REDUCTION

Within 10 years there will be a 50% reduction in toxics generated. In addition, there will be education regarding proper disposal of domestic hazardous waste - e.g. home health care waste.

- Provide funding for proper disposal and education regarding of home health care waste, which posses more hazards in waste handling (some items not labeled in English) (SW) 2003
- 50 percent reduction in toxics/ HHW waste generated (G) 2011
- Solid waste contributions to toxic body loading reduced (humans and animals, and soil and plants) (E) 2011